

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 777

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elmer W. Counce of Martin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Elmer W. Counce of Martin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Counce was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and alacrity for almost sixty years as a faculty member in the Department of Agriculture at the University of Tennessee, Martin (UTM), in which position he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and students alike for his exemplary leadership and inspiring teaching methods; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Volunteer, Mr. Counce began as a student at UTM before transferring to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to complete his bachelor of science and master of science degrees; and

WHEREAS, returning to UTM as a professor in 1953, Elmer Counce taught all the agronomy classes and introduced the first class in forestry; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his extensive class load, Mr. Counce served as the soils team coach and led teams that placed in national competitions for ten years; and

WHEREAS, he was also asked to head the first alumni and placement office at the college, in which position he served for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his exceptional commitment to education, Mr. Counce received the UT Alumni Association Outstanding Teaching Award and a number of Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation awards for service to Tennessee agriculture, and he was named a Soil Conservation Society of America Fellow; and

WHEREAS, after thirty-five years of service, Elmer Counce retired from UTM as Professor Emeritus of Soil Science, but continued to teach part-time for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the next decade; and

WHEREAS, a World War II veteran with the United States Coast Guard, Mr. Counce always appreciated the value of public service and continued that tradition through his participation in various organizations, serving as a fiftieth-year member of Future Farmers of America, an honorary member of Alpha Zeta Fraternity, and a member of Martin City Lodge #551, The American Legion Post #69, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and First United Methodist Church in Martin; and

WHEREAS, a faithful and loving family man, Mr. Counce was preceded in death by his parents, James Ephraim Counce and Emma Duncan Counce; his brother, J.E. Counce; and his sisters, Marietta Johnson and Martha Duncan; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his wife of sixty-five years, Marilucile Dodd Counce; their son, Ben Counce; their five grandchildren; one great-granchild; and the students, faculty, and administration of the University of Tennessee, Martin; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Counce leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Elmer W. Counce, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Counce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.